

Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

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R 251858Z NOV 76
FM USMISSION USUN NY
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1132
USLO PEKING

C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN 5640

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, CH, UN
SUBJECT: DEPARTURE OF HUANG HUA

REF: USUN 5624

1. CHOU NAN OF CHINESE DELEGATION TOLD MISOFF
NOVEMBER 24 THAT PERM REP HUANG HUA WOULD BE DEPARTING
NY AND RETURNING TO PEKING IN THE NEAR FUTURE (REFTEL).
WHILE THIS NEWS IS NOT WIDELY KNOWN AS YET, THERE IS
ALREADY CONSIDERABLE BUZZING AND SPECULATION IN THE CIRCLE OF
THOSE ALREADY INFORMED. EVEN THOUGH HUANG HUA HAS
NOW COMPLETED FIVE YEARS IN NEW YORK, THE TIMING OF
HIS DEPARTURE GIVES RISE TO IMMEDIATE QUESTIONS
WHETHER IT IS CONNECTED WITH RECENT CHANGES IN PRC
LEADERSHIP STRUCTURE -- I.E., WHETHER HUANG HUA IS ON
HIS WAY UP, DOWN OR OUT.

2. JAPANESE PERM REP ABE TOLD AMB BENNETT EVENING
NOVEMBER 24 HE ATTRIBUTED NO PARTICULAR POLITICAL
SIGNIFICANCE TO HUANG HUA'S DEPARTURE AND WAS
CONVINCED HE WAS LEAVING FOR REASONS OF HEALTH.
ACCORDING TO ABE, HUANG HUA HAS SUFFERED GREAT PAIN
FROM A BACK PROBLEM -- IT SOUNDS LIKE SOMETHING LIKE
A SLIPPED DISK -- AND HAD EXTENSIVE TREATMENT WHILE
IN PEKING LAST SUMMER ON HOME LEAVE. HE CAME BACK
FEELING MUCH BETTER, BUT HAS TOLD ABE THAT HIS
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CONDITION HAS AGAIN DETERIORATED AND HE IS IN CONSIDERABLE

PAIN. IT IS A FACT THAT HAS BEEN NOTED THAT HUANG HUA
HAS CUT DOWN ON HIS ATTENDANCE AT SECURITY COUNCIL
MEETINGS AND OTHER PUBLIC APPEARANCES.
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